

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2005

Domestic primary aluminum production in April was 210,770 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 7,026 t, 2% higher than that of the previous month and 1% above the rate for April 2004. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased sharply to 92.50 cents per pound in April 2005 from 96.85 cents per pound in March, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) decreased significantly during April. At the beginning of the month, the buying price range was 72–74 cents per pound. On April 18, the price range decreased to 70–71.5 cents per pound, and on April 26, it decreased again to 67–69 cents per pound. The price range remained at this level through the end of the month.

2004 UBC Recycling Rate

According to data jointly released by the Aluminum Association Inc., the Can Manufacturers Institute, and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc., 51.5 billion aluminum beverage cans were recycled in the United States in 2004. The recycling rate was 51.2%, an increase of 1.2% from

the 2003 rate and the first recycling rate increase since 1997 (Aluminum Association Inc., 2005).

Update

In May, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased significantly to 85.125 cents per pound, the lowest monthly average since September 2004. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs continued the decline that began last month. On May 6, the price range decreased to 65–66.5 cents per pound. On May 10, the price increased slightly to 65.5–67 cents per pound before returning to its downward trend. On May 17, the price range decreased to 62–64 cents per pound, and on May 24, it decreased further to 61–63 cents per pound. The price range remained at this level through the end of the month.

Reference Cited

Aluminum Association Inc., 2005, Aluminum beverage can recycling rate rising: Washington, DC, Aluminum Association Inc. press release, May 20, 3 p.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2004 ^p	2,516	1,830	1,200	3,020	3,250	938	4,180	9,720	1,470
2004:									
April	209	152	102	253	254	72	326	788	1,440
May	217	156	102	258	282	76	357	832	1,430
June	204	142	102	244	309	80	389	838	1,440
July	209	151	99	250	297	80	377	836	1,490
August	210	158	107	265	225	87	312	787	1,470
September	203	152	105	257	279	84	364	824	1,420
October	211	159	106	265	286	84	370	847	1,390
November	207	150	103	253	272	84	356	816	1,420
December	211	139	94	233	294	82	377	821	1,470
January-April	844	618	379	997	1,000	281	1,280	3,120	1,440
2005:									
January	209	157	102	259	334	90	425	893	1,510
February	191	152	103	255	289	97	386	833	1,460
March	214	167	102 ^r	268 ^r	262	105	367	849	1,490
April	211	157	102	259	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-April	824	633	409	1,040	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
2004 ^p	1,680	1,240	754	668	1,080	1,010	110	98	5	5	3,630	3,020
2004:												
April	141	105	65	57	89	83	9	8	(2)	(2)	304	253
May	140	103	68	60	93	87	8	7	1	1	310	258
June	135	100	62	55	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	294	244
July	136	99	66	58	91	85	8	7	(2)	(2)	301	250
August	147	109	67	60	95	89	8	7	(2)	(2)	318	265
September	143	105	67	59	91	84	9	8	(2)	(2)	309	257
October	148	110	64	56	97	91	9	8	(2)	(2)	319	265
November	146	108	64	56	87	81	9	8	(2)	(2)	306	253
December	133	98	61	54	78	73	8	7	(2)	(2)	281	233
January-April	554	410	236	210	362	338	41	37	2	2	1,190	997
2005:												
January	151	110	63	55	92	86	9	8	(2)	(2)	314	259
February	149	109	69	61	83	78	8	7	1	1	310	255
March	152	110 ^r	69	60	96	90	8	7	1	1	325	268 ^r
April	147	108	68	60	89	83	8	7	1	1	313	259
January-April	598	437	269	236	360	337	33	29	3	3	1,260	1,040

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN APRIL 2005¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	123,000	147,000	89,700	108,000
Integrated aluminum companies	68,400	68,400	60,200	60,200
Independent mill fabricators	74,000	88,800	69,200	83,100
Foundries	6,940	8,330	6,130	7,350
Other consumers	422	507	422	507
Total	272,000	313,000	226,000	259,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN APRIL 2005¹

(Metric tons)

	April				January-April ²	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	25,400	55,100	53,300	27,200	231,000	228,000
Can stock clippings	1,600	25,500	25,400	1,780	101,000	101,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	9,450	24,400	25,100	8,780	91,800	91,600
Casting	1,260	8,530	8,910	882	32,100	32,500
Borings and turnings	6,730	17,900	17,500	7,090	73,700	71,000
Dross and skimmings	5,300	35,800	35,700	5,400	146,000	146,000
Total new scrap	49,700	167,000	166,000	51,100	675,000	670,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	6,300	10,100	9,570	6,830	44,900	44,100
Used Extrusion	42	257	257	42	1,030	1,030
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	9,560	69,900	68,300	11,200	271,000	265,000
Other wrought products	5,630	16,600	16,600	5,630	68,100	68,100
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,890	11,000	11,000	2,910	44,900	44,400
Total old scrap	24,400	108,000	106,000	26,600	430,000	423,000
Sweated pig	81	748	757	72	2,970	2,970
Total all classes	74,300	276,000	272,000	77,800	1,110,000	1,100,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2005^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	April				January-April ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	4,520	1,680	1,400	4,810	7,520	5,980
380 and variations	5,210	22,100	22,400	4,950	82,300	84,200
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,440	4,000	4,030	2,410	16,000	16,100
No. 319 and variations	5,130	8,820	9,280	4,670	37,400	37,400
F-132 alloy and variations	1,230	2,450	2,440	1,240	9,140	9,150
Al-Zn alloys	223	166	160	229	588	582
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	3	3	39	12	12
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	50	381	381	50	1,520	1,520
Other ⁴	4,540	6,360	4,390	6,500	24,400	23,100
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,200	21,700	21,700	10,200	86,700	86,700
Total all alloys	33,600	67,700	66,200	35,100	266,000	265,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,740	XX	XX	38,700	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,870	XX	XX	11,500	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	628	XX	XX	2,590	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	54,400	XX	XX	213,000	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous months.

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March
Argentina	10,200	20,800	1,920	1,920	--	--	12,100	22,700
Australia	1,960	16,800	32	43	--	77	1,990	17,000
Bahrain	--	498	1,700	3,770	--	--	1,700	4,270
Belgium	(2)	(2)	1,100	3,030	--	--	1,100	3,030
Brazil	13,200	55,900	3,850	9,600	--	126	17,100	65,600
Canada	147,000	415,000	46,100	127,000	26,800	77,200	220,000	619,000
China	2,760	10,100	7,820	21,800	2	125	10,600	32,000
France	91	263	679	1,840	--	20	770	2,120
Germany	84	896	10,300	24,800	--	96	10,400	25,800
Hungary	--	--	42	74	--	--	42	74
Italy	146	146	199	556	--	--	345	702
Japan	113	298	1,600	4,630	82	203	1,800	5,130
Korea, Republic of	--	--	290	1,070	--	--	290	1,070
Mexico	--	--	1,760	5,290	9,840	27,200	11,600	32,500
Netherlands	55	104	185	614	--	--	241	718
Norway	--	--	16	53	2	2	19	55
Russia	61,400	254,000	4,410	18,600	761	1,650	66,600	274,000
South Africa	1,260	18,700	2,990	10,300	--	--	4,250	29,000
Spain	7	7	267	720	--	--	274	727
Sweden	--	--	199	762	--	--	199	762
Switzerland	--	(2)	273	738	--	--	273	738
Tajikistan	--	15,200	--	--	--	--	--	15,200
United Arab Emirates	3,330	14,900	55	132	21	85	3,410	15,100
United Kingdom	10,900	12,400	723	1,810	263	554	11,900	14,800
Venezuela	4,090	36,900	852	4,120	2,040	4,270	6,970	45,300
Other	4,480	12,900	17,800	48,800	4,160	13,200	26,400	74,900
Total	262,000	885,000	105,000	292,000	44,000	125,000	411,000	1,300,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March
Australia	37	76	151	443	--	12	188	531
Azerbaijan	--	--	2	2	--	--	2	2
Belgium	67	326	581	1,550	--	--	648	1,880
Brazil	7	105	435	1,180	429	946	872	2,230
Canada	12,000	33,600	46,300	130,000	12,800	36,500	71,100	200,000
China	29	75	1,560	4,740	45,900	106,000	47,500	111,000
Czech Republic	--	--	14	159	--	--	14	159
Dominican Republic	--	--	5	101	--	--	5	101
France	18	119	627	1,910	--	45	645	2,070
Germany	39	164	569	1,680	26	144	633	1,990
Hong Kong	7	14	965	1,710	820	2,400	1,790	4,120
India	2	34	21	84	1,010	2,370	1,030	2,490
Israel	3	100	238	553	--	--	242	653
Italy	--	--	262	751	--	--	262	751
Japan	472	1,010	1,140	2,450	2,570	7,260	4,180	10,700
Korea, Republic of	61	173	1,150	3,570	10,200	30,300	11,400	34,100
Malaysia	(2)	4	1,920	3,280	39	44	1,950	3,330
Mexico	10,900	37,000	18,200	46,300	4,680	11,400	33,800	94,800
Netherlands	17	46	43	138	21	37	82	221
Russia	(2)	28	--	(2)	10	10	11	38
Saudi Arabia	(2)	(2)	3,480	8,460	--	--	3,480	8,460
Singapore	23	55	162	555	--	39	184	648
Spain	(2)	9	91	199	40	196	132	405
Sweden	2	9	3	138	--	--	5	147
Taiwan	32	68	1,110	2,250	4,990	11,200	6,130	13,500
Thailand	52	98	644	1,970	282	2,090	978	4,160
Ukraine	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	(2)
United Kingdom	33	90	1,380	3,590	47	104	1,460	3,780
Venezuela	(2)	(2)	90	211	14	21	104	232
Other	516	994	2,780	8,310	4,070	8,750	7,360	18,000
Total	24,300	74,200	83,900	226,000	88,000	220,000	196,000	520,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.